

## Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 SAM-01 OES-03 NASA-01 ERDA-05

NRC-05 AF-06 /105 W

----- 123299

R 150047Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 323

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SUVA

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM MARR NZ XP ANZUS

SUBJ: SOUTH PACIFIC NUCLEAR WEAPONS FREE ZONE (SPNFZ)

REF: WELLINGTON 2952 DTG 060444Z OCT 75

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN GIVEN COPY OF BACKGROUNDER ON SPNFZ  
SENT TO ALL LABOUR MPS. BACKGROUNDER, PREPARED BY MFA,  
BUT SENT OUT UNDER COVER OF NOTE FROM PM ROWLING, IS FOR  
USE IN RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS ON ZONE INITIATIVE DURING  
ELECTION CAMPAIGN. IN ADDITION TO RATIONALE PREVIOUSLY  
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PUT FORWARD, BACKGROUNDER NOTES GNZ WANTS TO KEEP SOUTH

PACIFIC FREE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS "THAT MIGHT CONSTITUTE A TARGET FOR A NUCLEAR ATTACK."

2. DIFFICULTIES IN ESTABLISHING ZONE ARE COVERED AND COMMENT IS MADE ON "SPECIAL PROBLEMS" OF HIGH SEAS WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON NAVIGATION RIGHTS AND VERIFICATION OF ACTIVITIES OF NUCLEAR SUBMARINES.

"WE DON'T THINK THAT THESE PROBLEMS ARE NECESSARILY INSURMOUNTABLE, PARTICULARLY IN THE LONG TERM. BUT IT WOULD SERVE NO PURPOSE TO PRETEND THAT THEY DIDN'T EXIST. IT MAY BE DESIRABLE, IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, TO CONSIDER CONCENTRATING ON THE LAND AREAS IN THE FIRST INSTANCE AND TO MAKE PROVISION FOR EXTENSION TO THE HIGH SEAS AT A SUBSEQUENT STAGE. THESE -- AND SUCH QUESTIONS AS HOW FAR THE ZONE SHOULD EXTEND OR EVEN WHETHER WE SHOULD HAVE A TREATY OR JUST A SIMPLE DECLARATION -- WILL HAVE TO BE IRONED OUT AMONG THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED . . ."

3. STRONG EMPHASIS IS PUT ON DESIRE TO SAFEGUARD ANZUS. " WE SEE NO INCOMPATIBILITY BETWEEN OUR PROMOTION OF THE ZONE IDEA AND OUR MEMBERSHIP IN ANZUS. WE NEED ANZUS NOW. WE EXPECT TO NEED ANZUS IN THE FUTURE. EVEN IF A ZONE INCLUDING THE HIGH SEAS WERE EFFECTIVELY ESTABLISHED . . . ANZUS WOULD NOT BECOME UNNECESSARY. WE WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF SOME KIND OF MILITARY THREAT. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH A ZONE WOULD SIMPLY MAKE IT LESS LIKELY THAT THE SECURITY PROVISIONS OF ANZUS WOULD EVER HAVE TO BE INVOKED."

4. AUSTRALIAN RESERVATIONS ABOUT PRACTICAL PROBLEMS OF IMPLEMENTING SPNFZ ARE NOTED AS ARE USG MISGIVINGS ABOUT IMPLICATIONS OF INITIATIVE. "WE HAVE ATTEMPTED TO REASSURE (USG) THAT WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF DOING ANYTHING THAT WOULD BE INCONSISTENT WITH THE DEFENSE AND SECURITY INTERESTS OF EITHER THE US OR OURSELVES AND THAT WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT A MEANS COULD BE DEvised OF ENSURING THAT NO ONE NUCLEAR POWER WOULD BE CALLED UPON TO MAKE ANY UNILATERAL CONCESSIONS IN RELATION TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ANY RESTRICTION ON THE USE OF THE HIGH SEAS."

5. COMMENT: BACKGROUNDER IS HELPFUL FROM US VIEWPOINT IN ACKNOWLEDGING PROBLEMS ZONE PROPOSAL RAISES REGARDING FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION ON HIGH SEAS, AND IN STRONGLY REITERATING VALIDITY OF ANZUS. FACT THAT DOCUMENT HAS BEEN ISSUED IS TRIBUTE TO MFA'S PERSISTENT EFFORTS TO GET PM TO CLARIFY GOVERNMENT'S

SPNFZ PROPOSAL. FULL TEXT BEING POUCHED DEPT. AND USUN.  
SELDEN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REPORTS, INNOCENT PASSAGE, NUCLEAR WEAPONS, NUCLEAR FREE ZONES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 OCT 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975WELLIN03042  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750358-0550  
**From:** WELLINGTON  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19751053/aaaabvky.tel  
**Line Count:** 117  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 WELLINGTON 2952  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 14 APR 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
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EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SOUTH PACIFIC NUCLEAR WEAPONS FREE ZONE (SPNFZ)  
**TAGS:** PARM, MARR, NZ, XP, ANZUS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006